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CHRONICLE AND INFORMATION

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[This is a translation of an unsigned article from Gigiyena and Sanitariya (Hygiene and Sanitation), No 7, Moscow, Jul 1959, pages 93-94.]

On 8 January 1959 the Main State Sanitation Inspector USSR approved under No 278-59 systematic instructions to physicians of medico-sanitary sections, health stations, and industrial sanitation physicians on "Vibration Disease and its Prophylaxis," which had been worked out by the Leningrad Hygiene and Sanitation Medical Institute of Labor Hygiene and Occupational Diseases of the Acad Med Sci [AMS] USSR. The instructions contain sections on hygienic characteristics of pneumatic tools of perforating action (pneumatic hammers, rammers, etc.) and pneumatic tools of sea-saw motion (hammer drills, pneumatic drills, etc.), on the clinic of vibration disease with the description of the diagnostics of vibration sensitivity changes, osseo-articular changes, hearing affections, changes of the functional state of the central nervous system and functions of the internal organs, as well as on vibration disease caused by the effect of general vibration, expertise on work capacity, work arrangement, and treatment of vibration disease patients. In the section of instructions on measures of combatting the harmful effect of vibration are cited data on the liminal admissible levels of the amplitude of vibrations depending on the frequency and admissible levels of noise at the manufacturing place, as well as directions of proper care of the pneumatic tool, its storage and timely repair, and training of the newly accepted workers in the ways and methods of work with the pneumatic tool and the work regimen. In a separate section the enterprises are required to undertake measures on limiting the effect of vibration in vibro-compression of concrete.

The Leningrad Scientific Institute of Labor Hygiene and Occupational Diseases published in 1959 a revised edition of a systematic manual "On Certain Occupational Diseases of Hands Caused by Overexertion," composed by senior scientific co-workers M. A. El'kin and L. N. Gratsianskaya. In these systematic instructions there are data on the following types of diseases: periarthritis of the shoulder

joint, epicondylitis of the shoulder, crepitant tendo-vaginitis of the forearm, stenosing ligamentitis of the dorsal ligament of the wrist (stenosing tendo-vaginitis, styloiditis, stenosing ligamentitis of the digital circular ligaments ("locking" or "clicking" finger) and occupational myalgias and myosites.

The Physico-Mathematical Institute of the AS USSR developed a photoelectric device for rapid determination of mercury vapors in the air, designed for the examination of air pollution in industrial quarters. The action of the instrument is based on the absorption of ultraviolet radiation of 2537 Å wave-length by mercury vapors and determination of the absorption by a photoelectric device. The electric scheme is assembled on semiconductor diodes and triodes. The scale of the instrument is divided into 12 grades, each corresponding to 10 mkg/m³. The accuracy of measurement is within + 5 percent from the full scale. Time required for measurement; 0.5 -- 1 minute. The weight of the instrument -- 12 kg.

On 28 April 1959 there took place in Moscow a Plenum of the Administration of the All-Russian Scientific Society of Hygienists. The Plenum discussed the report-account of the administration of the Leningrad branch of the Society (Prof N. F. Galanin). The Plenum approved the activity of the Leningrad branch of the Society and its administration and recommended that it increase its work among physicians of the Leningradskaya Oblast by enrolling them as members and by the organization of out-of-town meetings of the Society and scientific conferences in the largest cities of the oblast. The Plenum discussed the question of convening an All-Russian conference of the Society at the beginning of 1960. The Plenum added to the number of administration members the names of Candidate of Med Sci N. F. Izmerov (Chair of Communal Hygiene, TsIU /Central Institute for Advanced Training of Physicians/), Candidate Med Sci A. P. Shitskova (Institute imeni Erisman), and Candidate Med Sci L. F. Glebova (Institute of General and Communal Hygiene of AMS USSR). N. F. Izmerov was elected secretary of the administration.

On 28 April 1959 there took place in Moscow a meeting of the Editorial Council of the journal "Hygiene and Sanitation." The Council discussed the report of the secretary of the Editorial Board of the journal, L. S. Rozanov, on the work schedule of the journal for 1959 and expressed a number of wishes directed toward further improvement of "Hygiene and Sanitation."

In the collection of reports of the First Scientific

Conference of the Tallin Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology, and Hygiene of the Ministry of Health Estonian SSR, published in December 1958, the following works on hygiene are included: N. M. Tomson, "Hygiene of Water and its New Problems"; I. A. Kuyk and L. M. Vygovskaya, "On Mineralization of the Subterranean Waters of Northern Estonia"; V. G. Khion, "Physical Development of Young Pupils in Connection with their Study in the Morning or Afternoon Shift"; Ye. G. Kyayer-Kingisepp and M. A. Epler, "On the Problem of Respiratory Arrhythmia of the Heart in Childhood and Adolescence"; and R. V. Silla, "On the Connection between the State of Higher Nervous Activity of Young Pupils and the Duration of their Sleep."

In Moscow on 30-31 March 1959 there took place a scientific technical meeting on the control of brightness of lamps, convoked by the All-Union Scientific Research Photo-Engineering Institute. In the meeting participated: workers of the scientific research institutes of labor protection of the All-Russian Central Council of Trade Unions VTsSPS, of labor hygiene and occupational diseases, technological, and project institutes, and of the enterprises and organs of industrial sanitary control. Reports were submitted at the meeting on the inspection of brightness of lamps, the evaluation of the blinding effect of industrial lamps of diffuse light, the limitation of the blinding effect of home illumination, and the limitation of brightness of lamps in school rooms.

From 31 March to 1 April a coordinating meeting was held in Moscow on the quality of industrial illumination, and plans and directions of the scientific research work institutes in this field were discussed. The coordinating meeting adopted as basic directions of work on the problem of the quality of artificial and natural illumination of industrial enterprises the following problems: a) distribution of brightness in the worker's field of vision (All-Union Scientific Research Photo-Engineering Institute, Moscow Power Engineering Institute, Ivanovo Scientific Research Institute of Labor Protection (VTsSPS); b) microdistribution of brightness on work premises (Moscow, Leningrad and Ivanovo Scientific Research Institutes of Labor Protection VTsSPS, Kiev Institute of Labor Hygiene and Occupational Diseases); c) determination of the criterion of standardization of quantitative indicators of illuminating devices (All-Union Scientific Research Photo-Engineering Institute, Leningrad Scientific Research Institute of Protection of Labor VTsSPS); d) determination of the phenomenon of light-flow vibrations, tint, and spectral composition of the sources of light on

human work fitness (Institute of Higher Nervous Activity of the AMS USSR, Chair of Psychology of Moscow State University, All-Union Scientific Research Photo-Engineering Institute); e) determination of qualitative and quantitative criteria for the evaluation of natural illumination (Scientific Research Institute of Construction Physics and Safety Constructions of the Academy of Construction and Architecture USSR).

In Leningrad on 6-10 April 1959 a conference took place on radiation hygiene, which had been convoked by the Institute of Radiation Hygiene of the Ministry of Health RSFSR. At the conference reports were submitted by the scientific workers of the Institute of Radiation Hygiene of the Ministry of Health RSFSR, as well as by a number of other scientific research institutes, on problems of study and hygienic evaluation of the natural radioactive background of the atmospheric air, on the natural radioactivity of reservoirs and soil, on pollution with radioactive substances and deactivation of drainage waters, and on radioactivity of food products and its determination. The reports cited methods of determination of human radioactivity and data on the content of certain radioactive elements in the organs of humans and animals and in other media, observations on the chronic action of small doses of ionizing radiation on laboratory animals and on the early reactions of the organism to the chronic effect of radioactive strontium. Reports were also submitted on certain hygienic problems dealing with the effect of small doses of ionization radiation on humans, on the sanitary rules of work with radioactive substances, the protective role of nutrition, and a number of other problems.

On 20 April 1959 in Moscow at the sanitary epidemiological station of Kirovskiy Rayon of Moscow, there took place the Third Scientific Practical Conference of Sanitary Physicians at which scientific reports of the following workers of the station were submitted: epidemiologist M. I. Zholents and bacteriologist M. A. Smirnova -Mutushevich, "On the Problem of Diphtheria Bacilli Carriers"; sanitation statistics physician N. A. Mirok'yan, "Study of Influenze Morbidity under Industrial Conditions"; assistant to industrial-sanitary physician A. S. Yevteyeva, "Experience of Health Amelioration of Work Conditions in the Type-Metal Smelting of Department Printing"; food sanitary physician B. I. Ostrovskaya "Morbidity of Bakery Workers"; and industrial sanitary physicians L. L. Al'pern and V. G. Khotenko, laboratory physician O. M. Gurevich and chemist A. P. Sarkisova, "On the Problem of Periodic Medical Examinations of Printing-Shop Workers."

From 25 to 27 April 1959 there took place in Moscow a Joint Plenum of the Administrations of the All-Union and All-Russian Scientific Society of Hygienists. The Plenum heard and discussed the report of the Chairman of the All-Union Society of Hygienists Prof F. G. Krotkov, "Decisions of the 21st Congress of the CPSU and Problems of Soviet Hygienists." Participating in the work of the Plenum were Minister of Health USSR Comrade S. V. Kurashov, Deputy Minister of Health USSR Prof V. M. Zhdanov Deputy Minister of Health RSFSR Comrade T. A. Nikolayeva, and a number of responsible workers of the Main State Sanitary Inspection USSR and RSFSR. Minister of Health USSR Comrade S. V. Kurashov spoke at the Plenum on strengthening the sanitary organization. The Plenum passed an extended resolution which will be published in the next number of the journal "Gigiyena i Sanitariya."

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